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EF 9 – Search and Rescue

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EF 9. Search and Rescue

EF 4 Tasked Agencies	
Primary Agencies	Shasta County Sheriff's Office
Supporting Agencies	Shasta County Fire Department Mutual Aid Partners
Primary State Agencies	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services – Fire and Rescue Division

1 Purpose and Scope

Emergency Function (EF) 9 coordinates and manages search and rescue operations and resources during emergency response and recovery, including urban search and rescue challenges generated as the result of an earthquake or building collapse, the search for persons lost in wilderness or other recreational or natural environments, the search for escaped prisoners and detainees, the search for downed aircraft, and/or the extrication of accident victims.

2 Policies and Agreements

2.1 Policies

The following policies are currently in place:

- Shasta County Code, Chapter 2.72.
- Shasta County Resolution Number 95-175 establishing the Shasta Operational Area (September 26, 1995).
- Government Code, Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7 (California Emergency Services Act).
- Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7.5 (California Natural Disaster Assistance Act).
- California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 2 (Standardized Emergency Management System Regulations).

2.2 Agreements

The following agreements are currently in place:

- None at this time.

3 Situation and Assumptions

3.1 Situation

The Shasta County Sherriff (or designee) assumes the role of Incident Commander for search and rescue activities.

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Shasta County Search & Rescue is directed under the supervision of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services or "O.E.S." and is composed of 12 different volunteer teams: Ground Pounders, Tracking Team, Mountain Rescue Team, Mounted Team, Dirt Riders, Snowmobile Team, Eastern & Western Flying Posses, K9, Communications, Jeepers and the Jeep Auxiliary Team, and one Overhead Team which consists of Sheriff's Office employees. Each team is vital to search & rescue efforts and each provides different trainings and certifications needed to conduct searches and recoveries. All appropriate personnel are trained in ICS/National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), and a training roster is maintained and updated by the County Sheriff's Office. Information regarding the personnel supporting EF 9 duties, including their capabilities, is available through the Sheriff's Office during an emergency.

The following circumstances may initiate a search and rescue mission requiring field operations:

- Person(s) participating in recreational activity become victims of an accident, suffer a health problem, or become disoriented regarding direction.
- Persons have wandered from a facility or a group organization activity designed to house, feed, care, and provide guidance for them.
- Passengers in a moving vehicle become submerged in water;
- Persons fall victim to drowning.
- Transitory persons are involved in a transportation-related accident.
- An aircraft has crashed or landed in an obscure region not normally or officially provided for landings.

3.2 Assumptions

- Search and rescue operations will continue to increase as population and recreational opportunities continue to grow.
- In a disaster, some search and rescue resources may become scarce or damaged. Assistance from mutual aid agreements, neighboring jurisdictions, and State of California (State) and federal resources may be called upon.
- Efficient and effective mutual aid among the various local, County, State, and federal agencies requires the use of the ICS together with compatible search and rescue equipment and communications.
- Rapid assessment of impacted areas and lost individuals will assist in the determination of response priorities.

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- Local residents and unaffiliated volunteers may initiate activities to assist in search and rescue operations and will require coordination and direction.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Emergency Function 4 Actions by Phase of Emergency Management

4.1.1 Preparedness

- Encourage active participation of inter-agency preparedness organizations, which collaborate in search and rescue activities on a regular basis.
- Identify response zones, potential staging areas, and potential medical facilities with local and regional search and rescue teams and establish specialized teams.
- Prepare and maintain plans and procedures, resource inventories, personnel rosters, and resource mobilization information necessary to implement search and rescue operations.
- Develop plans, procedures, and protocols for resource management in accordance with NIMS resource typing, including pre-positioning of resources to efficiently and effectively respond to an event.
- Establish procedures for coordinating all public information releases through the County and/or city Public Information Officer (PIO).
- Coordinate and participate in the development and presentation of training courses and exercises for search and rescue personnel.
- Maintain liaison with support agencies.
- Pre-identify typed search and rescue resources and identify resources from other agencies or capabilities that may assist with search and rescue, and plan to integrate such additional resources as necessary.
- Develop a management plan to manage uncertified volunteers.
- Appoint a representative to assist in the County EOC.

4.1.2 Response

4.1.2.1 Command and Control

- SEMS is the system required by Government Code § 8607(a) for managing response to multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction emergencies

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in California. SEMS incorporates the use of ICS, the Master Mutual Aid Agreement, existing mutual aid systems, the Operational Area concept, and multi-agency or inter-agency coordination. It creates a measure of performance by which responses to emergencies can be evaluated and improved.

- ICS has been adopted and is used by many first responders and local jurisdictions in the State to manage incidents and events. The purpose of ICS is to establish command and control with a system recognized by all responders, using the same organization and nomenclature.
- The ranking member of the first arriving response unit assumes command until relieved. An Incident Command Post is established as the focal point for all emergency operations.
- Collect and analyze incident information to help determine the need to deploy search and rescue operations.
- Plan and coordinate search and rescue operations at the incident site.
- Direct search and rescue resources according to SEMS, NIMS, ICS, and team policies and procedures/guidelines.

4.1.2.2 Emergency Management

- Activate the EOC and coordinate emergency warning(s). Coordinate with appropriate agencies, including government, public service, and private and volunteer organizations.

4.1.2.3 Sheriff's Office

- Notify key staff based on information received from the Communications Center and/or the EOC.
- Activate emergency operating procedures, including search and rescue volunteers.
- Respond to calls for search and rescue.
- Assist in warning the public of traffic routing and/or traffic control, when possible.
- Initiate mutual aid contingency plans, when needed.
- Track personnel assignments/locations.
- Support emergency operations as defined in agency emergency operations procedures or as requested by the EOC.

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- Notify key staff based on information received from the Communications Center and/or the EOC.
- Activate emergency operating procedures.
- Provide temporary power and emergency lighting at emergency scenes when needed.
- Assist in warning the public of traffic routing and/or traffic control, when possible.
- Initiate mutual aid contingency plans, when needed.
- Track personnel assignments/locations.
- Support emergency operations as defined in agency emergency operations procedures or as requested by the EOC, such as damage assessment.

4.1.3 Recovery**4.1.3.1 Emergency Management**

- Continue to render support when and where required as long as emergency conditions exist.
- Participate in after-action briefings and develop after-action reports.
- Make necessary changes to this EF Annex and supporting plans and procedures.
- Initiate a financial reimbursement process for response activities when such support is available.
- Continue EOC operations until it is determined that EOC coordination is no longer necessary.
- Updates plans and procedures based on critiques and lessons learned during an actual event.

4.1.3.2 Sheriff's Office

- Return vehicles and equipment to regularly assigned locations.
- Provide critical payroll and other financial information for cost recovery through appropriate channels.

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4.1.4 Mitigation

- Conduct search and rescue training and education programs.
- Review the hazards most likely to affect the County and identify potential vulnerabilities in the search and rescue function.
- Develop plans to overcome identified vulnerabilities (e.g., new equipment, training, and mutual aid procedures).
- Ensure that all equipment is regularly checked and maintained for instant deployment.

5 Concept of Operations**5.1 General**

- In accordance with the Basic Plan and this EF Annex, the Sheriff's Office is the primary agency responsible for coordinating search and rescue activities. Plans and procedures developed by the primary and supporting agencies provide the framework for carrying out those activities.
- Requests for assistance with search and rescue resources will be generated one of two ways: they will be forwarded to the County EOC, or they will be issued in accordance with established mutual aid agreements.
- The County EOC will provide guidance for the coordination of search and rescue resources.
- Search and rescue support requirements that cannot be met at the local level should be forwarded to the State for assistance. If needed, federal assistance may be requested by the Governor.

5.2 Notifications

- The Director of Emergency Services will notify the Sheriff's Office and supporting agencies of EOC activations and request that representatives report to the EOC to coordinate search and rescue activities.
- As additional EOC staffing needs become apparent, other support and partnering agency personnel may be asked to report to the EOC to assist with search and rescue activities.

5.3 Access and Functional Needs Populations

Search and rescue operations that require dissemination of emergency public information will take into account populations with access and functional needs.

6 Emergency Function Annex Development and Maintenance

The County Sherriff’s Office will be responsible for coordinating regular review and maintenance of this EF Annex. Each primary and supporting agency will be responsible for developing plans and procedures that address assigned tasks.

7 Supporting Documents

The following documents are currently in place:

Shasta County

- None at this time.

State of California

- 2012 California Strategic Plan

Federal

- National Response Framework: ESF 9 – Search and Rescue

8 Appendices

None at this time.

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